

REMARKS

Claims 1, 3-9 and 11-21 were pending in the application. Claims 1, 3, 5, 6, 8, 11, 13, 14 and 16 have been amended. Claim 15 has been canceled. No claims have been added. Therefore, claims 1, 3-9, 11-14 and 16-21 remain pending and are submitted for reconsideration.

Allowable Subject Matter

The Examiner's indication that claims 5 and 6 contain allowable subject matter is greatly appreciated.

Drawings

The drawings are objected to for failing to show every feature specified in the claims. Specifically, the Office Action states that the figures fail to show the first and second guide member having at least one stop as recited in claim 8. Claim 8 has been amended to obviate the objection. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the objection is respectfully requested.

35 U.S.C. 112 Rejections

Claims 8, 11, 16, 17 and 20

Claims 8, 11, 16, 17 and 20 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112. Claims 8 and 11 have been amended where appropriate. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections are respectfully requested.

35 U.S.C. 102 Rejections

Claims 1, 3, 4, 7-9 and 11-21 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,730,459 (“Kanda”). Independent claims 1, 11 and 13 have been amended to include subject matter similar to claim 4. The rejection should be withdrawn at least because Kanda does not disclose, teach or suggest each and every element of the claims.

Kanda fails to disclose, teach or suggest “a second guide member located on the tubular gas generator and engaged with the first guide member,” as called for in claims 1, 4, 11 and 13. The Office Action contends that the phrase “located on” is sufficiently broad to include the relationship shown by Kanda. However, the bolt 14 in Figures 3-8 of Kanda is clearly “located on” the arms 3₁ of the steering boss 3, not the gas generator. Further, assuming arguendo that the first embodiment shown in Figures 1-2 of Kanda includes a second guide member, such as bolt 14, the bolt 14 is connected to the steering boss 3 and connection member 13, not the gas generator. The term “locate” can be defined as “to put or establish (something) in a particular place,” and “to place at a certain location, station or situate.” Cambridge Dictionary of American English and The American Heritage® Dictionary of the English Language: Fourth Edition. 2000. Clearly, the phrase “located on” would not describe the relationship shown by Kanda. The bolt 14 is not established in or placed at the gas generator. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection of claims 1, 4, 11 and 13 are respectfully requested.

Claims 3, 7-9, 12-14 and 16-21 depend from claims 1, 4, 11 or 13 and are allowable therewith, for at least the reasons set forth above, without regard to the further patentable subject matter set forth in these dependent claims.

Conclusion

Favorable reconsideration of the application, as amended, is respectfully requested.

The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned by telephone if it is felt that a telephone interview would advance the prosecution of the present application.

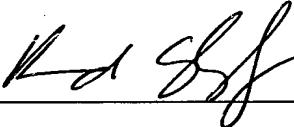
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Appln. No. 10/644,956

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees which may be required regarding this application under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16-1.17, or credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account No. 19-0741. Should no proper payment be enclosed herewith, as by a check being in the wrong amount, unsigned, post-dated, otherwise improper or informal or even entirely missing, the Commissioner is authorized to charge the unpaid amount to Deposit Account No. 19-0741. If any extensions of time are needed for timely acceptance of papers submitted herewith, Applicants hereby petition for such extension under 37 C.F.R. §1.136 and authorizes payment of any such extensions fees to Deposit Account No. 19-0741.

Respectfully submitted,

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